

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /085 W

----- 036289

R 081421Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2878

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

UNCLAS PRETORIA 3856

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS RF, PINS, PINT

SUBJ NKOMO DEFINES MAJORITY RULE

1. IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED (SALISBURY) SUNDAY MAIL OCT. 5, JOSHUA NKOMO STATED THAT HE DOES NOT EQUATE MAJORITY RULE WITH SOLELY AFRICAN RULE. NKOMO IS QUOTED AS STATING:

"BY MASTY RULE I MEAN A GOVERNMENT REPRESENTING THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY THE GOVERNMENT COULD INCLUDE BLACKS AND WHITES. BOTH RACES LIVE IN THIS COUNTRY AND WE SHARE THIS COUNTRY.

"THIS PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF MR. SMITH'S DOES NOT REPRESENT ALL THE PEOPLE, THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE IN RHODESIA. THAT IS WHY THERE MUST BE A CHANGE.

"THAT IS WHY I AM SETTING UP THIS COMMITTEE, WHICH WILL INVITE
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EUROPEANS TO COME FORWARD AND SAY WHY THEY ARE FRIGHTENED WHEN

WE TALK OF MAJORITY RULE"

2. COMMENT: THE SUBSTANCE OF NKOMO'S REMARKS IS NOT NEW --
MOST AFRICAN NATIONALISTS WOULD PROBABLY BE WILLING TO
ACCORD WHITES SOME SAY AS RHODESIAN CITIZENS IN ANY FUTURE GOVERN-
MENT. WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT, HOWEVER, IS THE TIMING OF NKOMO'S STA-
TEMENT WHICH APPEARS TO BE A CONSCIOUS ATTEMPT TO FOSTER
AN IMAGE OF HIMSELF AMONG WHITE RHODESIANS AS A REASONABLE AND
MODERATE MAN WITH WHOM SMITH WOULD BE WISE TO NEGOTIATE.
BOWDLER

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NNN

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